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INTELLOFAX 25

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS~~COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORTTOPIC Soviet Troops in OranienburgEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                      25X1DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 24 April 1951REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                     

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Two companies, each of 120 to 140 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying full field equipment, marched out of the SS Kaserne in Oranienburg (N 53/E 67) at about 7:30 a.m. on 12 March, proceeding toward the training area on Lehnitz Lock. They were followed about half an hour later by nine trucks carrying soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and white ribbons around their caps. This group apparently constituted the simulated enemy. ~~Shooting field kitchen~~

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followed the trucks toward Sachsenhausen. Groups of from 4 to 20 soldiers with telephone equipment were subsequently seen leaving the installation. Three SP guns                      left the billeting area at about 9 a.m. and were subsequently observed participating in a practice attack in the aforementioned training area. During the course of the simulated attack, a lieutenant colonel and a major arrived at the training area in jeep                     

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2. On 22 March, it was learned that several wooden garages on solid foundations were completed at the building site in the Kurmarkische Siedlung (settlement). Four other wooden garages were under construction beside the school building. About 60 trucks were parked nearby. (3)
3. Several officers supervised the filling of tank trucks with fuel from 12 two-axle railroad tank cars at the Oranienburg freight yard.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. On 17 March, the Weisse Stadt settlement was still occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Trucks parked beside the rocket launcher sheds [redacted] passenger car [redacted] left the billeting area. (3)

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5. The Oranienburg Castle still quartered about 400 troops. Training activities observed in the castle area indicated that a troop unit rather than a high-echelon headquarters, was located there. Tank truck [redacted] was parked at the service station at the driveway to the castle. (4)

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6. About 3,500 troops were quartered in the collective billeting area of the former concentration camp and the Panzer Schule. Almost all of the officers observed there wore tank insignia. Officers leaving the billeting area through the westernmost gate on Bornauer Allee and going to a supply installation opposite the gate included a colonel with artillery insignia, a lieutenant colonel and two majors with tank insignia; three majors with silver epaulets and three officers with medical insignia. [redacted] (1)

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7. The minimum number of troops quartered in the collective billeting area of the concentration camp and the Panzer Schule on 31 March was estimated at 1,200. The billeting area being almost entirely blocked to view from the outside, it is difficult to determine the aggregate strength of the troops there. Fresh marks of tank treads led from two gates of the billeting area toward the woods. Since the driveways were greatly rutted by treads, it is assumed that there must have been a considerable number of tanks. No tanks were seen in the billeting area proper. The troops seen there wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. [redacted]

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8. The Oranienburg castle quartered from 200 to 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted]

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9. The restricted Weisse Stadt settlement was occupied by artillery troops on 31 March. Most of the troops seemed to have left the billeting area for field training. [redacted]

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10. On 1 April, several new wooden buildings were under construction in the restricted Weisse Stadt settlement, increasingly obstructing the view into the billeting area. Enlargement or reconstruction work was also going on at the target range. From 800 to 900 troops with red-bordered black epaulets assembled at the athletic field, apparently for roll call. A group of 15 officers, including two officers with wide golden epaulets who seemed to be generals, walked to the athletic field. At the same time, two units of 104 and 76 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched through the gate on Berliner Chaussee in the direction of the town of Oranienburg. In addition, numerous other soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen in the restricted area either singly or in groups. The total number of troops in the restricted area was estimated at not less than 2,000. About 50 prime movers were parked on a lot between the newly constructed wooden buildings. Motor

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11. Gate guards at the Oranienburg castle wore red-bordered black epauletts.

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Comments.

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(1)

the strength

figures given differ widely. The estimate of about 3,500 troops is believed to come nearest to the actual strength

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The billeting area is believed to be occupied by components of the 25th Tank Div, including the 111th Tank Regt, the 162d Tank Regt and unidentified artillery and infantry units.

(2)

the 162d Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div. This regiment was previously confirmed in Oranienburg until 7 February 1951, and can henceforth be carried in the billeting area of the concentration camp and the Panzer Schule.

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(3)

the units in the Weisse Stadt settlement are believed to include the unidentified rocket launcher regiment and two regiments of the unidentified artillery brigade of the Second Gds Mecz Army.

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The estimate of the present report on the number of troops there is probably the most correct one.

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The Kurmaerkische Siedlung (settlement) is part of the Weisse Stadt.

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(4)

the Hq 25th Tank Div is believed from previous reports to be located in the Oranienburg castle

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